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SUBJECT: (S) COUNTRY TEAM SUPPORTS SALE OF GLOBAL HAWK TO
SINGAPORE

Classified By: Ambassador Patricia L. Herbold for Reasons 1.4 (b/d)

11. (S) Summary: The Embassy Singapore Country Team supports USPACOM's position endorsing the proposed sale of the Global Hawk (GH) High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) to Singapore and the renegotiation of Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) restrictions for that purpose. Embassy Singapore believes the sale would generate significant forward momentum in the already excellent bilateral relationship, the political underpinning for the Strategic Framework Agreement (SFA) which ensures access by U.S. military forces to Singapore's extraordinary air and sea transport facilities. Singapore is more than likely to acquire Global Hawk-like capabilities, from Israel if not from the United States, so it would be preferable if Singapore acquired these capabilities in a way that advanced U.S. defense, diplomatic and commercial interests. The Embassy Singapore Country Team believes the USG can and should leverage the potential sale a) to persuade Singapore to provide real-time USG access to GH data, which would fit into our broader agenda of greater cooperation with Singapore on intelligence and information sharing and b) to convince Singapore to go beyond the steps it has already taken to incorporate aspects of the MTCR into Singapore's export control system. While strongly supporting the proposed sale, we defer to Washington on assessing the "beyond Singapore" nonproliferation and regional policy implications. End Summary.

Singapore's Request to Purchase Global Hawk

12. (S) In July 2006, Singapore requested Pricing and Availability for two Global Hawks to replace the Republic of Singapore Armed Forces' (RSAF's) current Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA). The RSAF already have a UAV Command established and are flying smaller, less capable UAVs. GH would provide Singapore greater range, duration and mission capability/flexibility than the MPA aircraft and would fly well above the congested airways of this region, which limit the operations of Singapore's current inventory of UAVs. At present Singapore's MPA flies the "Eyes in the Sky" Joint Air Patrol, sharing the maritime picture with Malaysia and Indonesia. Discussions are underway to include Thailand. Singapore has stated that if it gets Global Hawk it will provide the GH maritime surveillance picture to both Indonesia and Malaysia. Singapore recently broke ground on a multinational Command and Control (C2) Center at Changi Naval Base, which is designed to facilitate information sharing among regional nations to include the United States, with the goal of ultimately enhancing maritime security in the Strait of Malacca.

MTCR Category I Item

13. (S) An issue that emerged as the USG considered the sale of GH to Singapore was the fact that Singapore is not an MTCR Partner and the sale of any MTCR Category I item (including UAVs like Global Hawk) carries a strong presumption of denial. (Note: If Global Hawk were a manned aircraft no such

issue would arise.) It has not been possible thus far for the USG to win consensus within MTCR for downgrading UAVs like Global Hawk from Category I to Category II.

PACOM Endorsement

¶4. (S) In March 2008, USPACOM endorsed the sale of Global Hawk to Singapore and supported renegotiation of MTCR restrictions for that purpose. PACOM noted that the sale would strengthen U.S.-Singapore trust and improve interoperability. It would enhance Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) in support of War on Terror operations. It may open opportunities for ISR sharing, given Singapore's statements that it will share imagery with Indonesia and Malaysia for maritime security, PACOM noted.

Embassy Singapore Country Team Position

¶5. (S) The Embassy Singapore Country Team supports PACOM's position. Embassy Singapore believes the sale would generate significant forward momentum in the already excellent bilateral relationship, the political underpinning for the Strategic Framework Agreement, which ensures access by U.S. military forces to Singapore's extraordinary air and sea transport facilities. Global Hawk for Singapore would be consistent with the Secretary of Defense's 2007 Security Cooperation Guidance and would provide the surveillance capability to detect and share intelligence on piracy, some terrorist activities, and potentially WMD shipments, thus deterring such activities in the Strait of Malacca. Global Hawk also holds great promise in providing real-time ISR in an area prone to natural disasters and is a perfect fit to provide ISR for the Changi C2 Center as it develops as a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HA/DR) multinational command center.

Alternative Israeli ISR Platform?

¶6. (S) Singapore is more than likely to acquire Global Hawk-like capabilities, probably from Israel if not from the United States, so it would be preferable if Singapore acquired these capabilities in a way that advanced U.S. defense, diplomatic, and commercial interests. Singapore's current UAV inventory is exclusively Israeli with two separate and distinct models in the UAV command. Singapore has been in discussion with Israel and is monitoring the development of an alternative, yet unfielded, Israeli ISR platform expected to be comparable to GH.

Leveraging the Sale

¶7. (S) The Embassy Singapore Country Team believes the USG can and should leverage the potential sale to persuade Singapore to provide real-time USG access to GH data, which would fit into our broader agenda of greater cooperation with Singapore on intelligence and information sharing. We should also leverage the sale to convince Singapore to go beyond the steps it already took in January 2008 to make its export control regime consistent with the MTCR. Post supports Washington efforts to find a way forward that makes it possible for us to sell GH to Singapore while preserving the effectiveness of the MTCR.

Assessing the Regional Implications

¶8. (S) While strongly supporting the proposed sale, we defer to other Embassies regarding the potential impact on other bilateral relationships and to Washington, particularly State EAP, on assessing the "beyond Singapore" regional policy implications. We note that the United States has sold advanced military equipment before to Singapore (F-15SG, F-16s, AMRAAM, Apaches, etc.) with no apparent negative repercussions. Even Singapore's recent purchase of the F-15SG with its AESA radar, AIM-9X missiles and 29,000 lbs. of bomb carrying capacity has not raised any noticeable negative reactions from neighboring countries. However, to mitigate potential regional concerns in the past, the USG has

required Singapore to base previously sold U.S. military systems, such as the AMRAAM missile and Apache Longbow helicopters, in the United States for some time period prior to introduction into Singapore. Singapore has discussed requesting U.S. permission to base the Singapore GH,s with a U.S. GH unit in Guam, as Singapore has done with the other aircraft, to mitigate any potential regional concerns.

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